

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-84 (canceled)

85. (new) A nucleic acid-lipid particle, said nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising:
a nucleic acid;
an amino lipid;
a neutral lipid;
a sterol; and
a polyethyleneglycol-diacylglycerol (PEG-DAG) conjugate.
86. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of:
(1,2-dioleyloxy-3-dimethylamino-propane (DODAP),
N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture thereof.
87. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said neutral lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (DOPE), palmitoyloleoylphosphatidylcholine (POPC), distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC), sphingomyelin and a mixture thereof.
88. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.
89. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 88, wherein the cholesterol comprises from 35% to 55% of the total lipid present in said particle.
90. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid comprises from 10% to 40% of the total lipid present in said particle.
91. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid comprises from 10% to 35% of the total lipid present in said particle.
92. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said neutral lipid comprises from 25% to 45% of the total lipid present in said particle.
93. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said PEG-DAG conjugate comprises from 0.5% to 15% of the total lipid present in said particle.

94. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said neutral lipid is distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC).

95. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid-lipid particle comprises:
N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA);
distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC);
a sterol; and
a PEG-DAG conjugate.

96. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 95, wherein the sterol is cholesterol.

97. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

98. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.

99. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide.

100. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said nucleic acid is a ribozyme.

101. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a therapeutic product of interest.

102. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 101, wherein said therapeutic product of interest is a peptide or protein.

103. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid in said nucleic acid-lipid particle is not substantially degraded after exposure of said particle to a nuclease at 37° C for 20 minutes.

104. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid in said nucleic acid-lipid particle is not substantially degraded after incubation of said particle in serum at 37° C for 30 minutes.

105. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid is fully encapsulated in said nucleic acid-lipid particle.

106. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

107. (new) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 106 comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle, wherein the nucleic acid-lipid particle comprises: N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA); distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC); cholesterol; a PEG-DAG conjugate; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

108. (new) A method of introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, said method comprising contacting said cell with a nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising an amino lipid, a neutral lipid, a sterol, a PEG-DAG conjugate, and a nucleic acid.